

GRAZING MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM



MANAGE FOR 60-70% COOL SEASON FORAGE AND 30-40% WARM SEASON FORAGE

WHAT:

Improve the prescribed grazing system by changing the cool-season to warm season forage ratio (60-70% cool season /30-40% warm season forage). Species must be desirable species and be present on 80% or more of a field to be counted. If present in the summer alfalfa, red clover and brassicas may count as either warm season or cool season forage. See accompanying list of desirable, intermediate and undesirable species.

WHEN:

Manage cool season forages in the spring, fall, and winter. Manage warm season forages in the summer.

WHERE:

Enhancement applies to all pasture considered part of the ratio.

HOW MUCH:

This enhancement applies to all pasture fields. Only fields that are part of the grazing system are to be considered as contributing to the cool season/warm season ratio. Fields dedicated to hay do not count as part of this enhancement. If fields are grazed certain seasons, count the species present when grazed. The enhancement rate is \$10.00 per grazing acre per year.

HOW:

In mixed stands of warm season and cool season forage, vary the nitrogen application and grazing height according to component needing improvement in the mix.

For example:

Bermuda and Tall Fescue mix pastures:

- ☐ to increase Tall Fescue raise the grazing height and fertilize in the spring and/or fall;
- ☐ to increase Bermuda graze to lower heights and fertilize in late spring and summer.

➤ GRASS HEIGHT:

Maximum intake of forage is achieved when the forage height is 5 to 8 inches tall. Forages taller than the maximum grazing height (generally greater than 8 - 10 inches) lose palatability and digestibility and are more prone to damage from trampling. When forages within a rotation get taller than 10 inches then it is best to use this paddock for hay and skip ahead to the next paddock in the grazing rotation. An exception would be stockpiling cool season

grasses in the fall. Harvesting a field for hay that can be grazed does not make good economic sense.

RECOMMENDED GRAZING HEIGHT:

Kind of Forage	Ending Grazing Height ^{1.)}	Start Grazing Height ^{2.)}
Cool season grasses (i.e. orchardgrass and tall fescue)	3 - 4"	5 - 8"
Bermudagrass	2 - 3"	5 - 8"
Warm Season Tall Grasses (i.e. pearl millet, sudan grass)	6 - 8"	12 - 24"

- 1.) Ending Grazing Height (when 80% of plants are desired ht.) —the forage height to rotate off.
- 2.) Start Grazing Height (when 80% of plants are desired ht.) —the maximum forage height at which grazing should begin (forages above this height should be considered for hay).

Forage heights less than recommended are acceptable during late winter (February-March) just before green up and may even encourage additional legumes. During the grazing season no more than 20% of any one field should be grazed closer than ending height listed. Also no more than 20% of the total forage system should be grazed closer than the recommended height (i.e. 1 out of 5 fields grazed close).

Desirable Species

(Desirability is listed for cattle, call 615-277-2569 if pasture is for other livestock. A species must be a desirable species in functional groups 1 through 4 to be counted. Intermediate species and undesirable species should make up 20% or less of the forage system.)

Functional Group 1 Cool Season Grasses

Perennial

Orchardgrass
Kentucky bluegrass
Matua bromegrass
Red Top
Reed Canarygrass
Tall Fescue
Timothy

Annual

Barley
Oats
Rescue grass
Rye
Ryegrass
Triticale
Wheat

Functional Group 2 Warm Season Grasses

Perennial

Bermudagrass
Dallisgrass
Eastern gamagrass
Big bluestem
Indiangrass
Johnsongrass
Little bluestem
Switchgrass

Annual

Broadleaf Signalgrass
Crabgrass
Pearlmillet
Sudangrass
Sorghum x

Functional Group 3 Legumes

Cool Season

Alfalfa
Red clover
White clover

Warm Season

Kobe lespedeza (annual)
Korean lespedeza (annual)
Sericea lespedeza (perennial)

Note: alfalfa and red clover lap from cool season into the warm season, they can be counted in either season but not both.

Functional Group 4 Forbs (Non-leguminous Broadleaf plants)

Brassicas (i.e. Rape, Kale, Turnips)
Chicory

Intermediate Species

(Species eaten but short season of growth or desirability, composition of intermediate and undesirables 20% or less)

Intermediate Grasses

Barnyardgrass
Giant foxtail, yellow, and green millets
Little barley
Cheat
Purple Top (Tridens)

Intermediate Legumes

Florida beggarweed
Hop clover
Vetch

Intermediate Forbs

Chickweed
Dandelion
Nutsedge

Undesirables

(Most Common listed undesirables, many others exist)

Undesirable Grasses

Nimblewheel
Broomsedge

Undesirable Forbs

Buttercup
Cocklebur
Perilla mint
White snakeroot
Spiny amaranth
Thistles